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Citizens' Bulletin

Volume 9 Number 11 July/August 1982 \$5/yr.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection



Citizens' Bulletin

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Cover Photo: Gray squirrel: Irene Vandermolen

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Audubon gives environmental awards

By David M. Emerson,
Assistant Director,
Connecticut Audubon Society

Seven Connecticut junior and senior high school students have been recognized by the Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) for outstanding accomplishment in combining their science studies with environmental concerns. Bent on reaching into Connecticut's school systems in more depth than is possible through the diverse programs already offered at the CAS Fairfield Center and soon to be offered from the Holland Brook Center in Glastonbury, the Directors of CAS established a scholarship awards program and this year joined forces with the Connecticut Science Fair Association to evaluate more than 300 projects during a three-day showing at the University of Hartford. The CAS Science Fair Awards Program will henceforth take place each year, funded through donations by individuals and businesses.

Teams of volunteer Connecticut Audubon judges--staff,

directors, and invited professionals from a variety of fields, 19 judges in all--first narrowed the field to 90 candidates for awards consideration. The field was further reduced to 22 finalists. Seven award recipients were selected after an all-day round of interviews by the final judging team, including Steven Fish, who heads DEP's environmental education programs.

Selected as \$50 cash award recipients in the Junior Division were: Michael Cugnar, Plainfield, "Acid Rain"; Christine Early, Avon, "The Effect of a Sewage Treatment Plant on Water Pollution"; Beth Meyerand, Glastonbury, "Harnessing The Power of Ocean Waves"; Lisa Perrone, Avon, "Raccoons"; and Elizabeth Tan, Manchester, "Water Pollution Treatment and Purification."

In the Senior Division, 17 year old John Kovel of Stonington was awarded a \$500 scholarship for his project, "A Ver-

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Connecticut Audubon Society President Roland C. Clement presents \$1,000 scholarship award to William Telford of Trumbull.

Connecticut Audubon Society

C & P Division reorganizes

By Leslie Bieber,
Citizen Participation Coordinator

cer. Anthony Cantele serves in the same capacity in the Western District. The Western headquarters is currently in Pleasant Valley, but plans are being developed to move to Harwinton pending the acquisition of some property. All Unit Managers will work directly under either Spencer or Cantele. The district managers report to the new Division Services Unit

quarters at the following addresses:

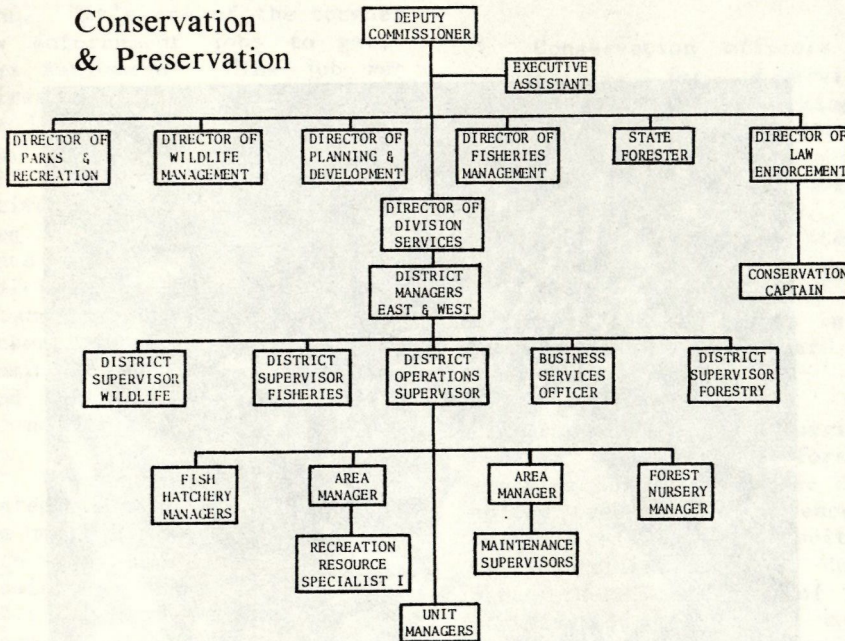
Eastern District

209 Hebron Road
Marlborough, CT 06447
(203) 295-9523

Western District

P.O. Box 161
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
(203) 379-0771

The Division of Conservation & Preservation



In an effort to maximize the efficiency of existing staff and equipment, the Conservation and Preservation Division of the Department of Environmental Protection has reorganized its regional headquarters system. The five regional offices have been consolidated into two districts, an Eastern and a Western.

Dennis DeCarli, Deputy Commissioner for Conservation and Preservation, explained the purpose of the reorganization: "Basically, it is a means of pooling material and personnel resources. With two larger areas to draw from, we will have greater flexibility in assigning a plumber, for instance, to various facilities within each district."

The Eastern headquarters, located in Marlborough, is run by District Manager John Spen-

in Hartford, headed by Les Whitham.

Each District Manager will be assisted by a staff which includes a District Wildlife Supervisor, a District Fisheries Supervisor, a District Forestry Supervisor, and a Business Services Officer. The District Headquarters will continue to offer the same services to the public as before. Questions concerning camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, forestry, and recreational use of State park and forest land may be directed to these offices.

DeCarli is optimistic that, in a time of tight budgets and limited staff, the reorganization will be beneficial to Connecticut's citizens. "Our goal is to provide the greatest service possible in a somewhat uniform fashion," he says. You can reach the district head-

What goes on in DEP's districts? The group of articles that follows describes the work of some of DEP's field professionals. In later issues, we'll give you a look at some of the support staff and services that assist them.

Trails work

John E. Hibbard, secretary-forester of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, Inc., which sponsors the Blue Blazed Trail System in Connecticut, said that volunteers doing trails work in Connecticut put 4,500 hours into the maintenance of these trails during 1981.

Information about time spent doing volunteer trails work is compiled during the fall of each year in preparation for the Association's annual trails meeting. Hibbard said that volunteers were able to do a good job of maintaining trails during 1981 and he is confident that as a result of the work which has been done the trails will be in good condition for the 1982 hiking season.

The Association has been sponsoring the Blue Blazed Trail System since 1929, and about 500 miles of trails are currently included in it. Cooperation between landowners and volunteer workers with the Association makes it possible for this recreational resource to be available to Connecticut's citizens.

The Connecticut Forest and Park Association, with offices at 1010 Main Street, East Hartford, CT, 06108, is a private conservation organization with about 2,300 members throughout the state.

Conservation Officer

... most visible
to the public
because
he's in uniform

By Audrey Handelman,
Environmental Intern

On a typical day, one of DEP's Conservation Officers might be asked to remove a sick or injured animal from someone's yard, might act as a leasing agent for the State, or might inspect wood duck nesting boxes. All of these activities are among an inland conservation officer's duties.

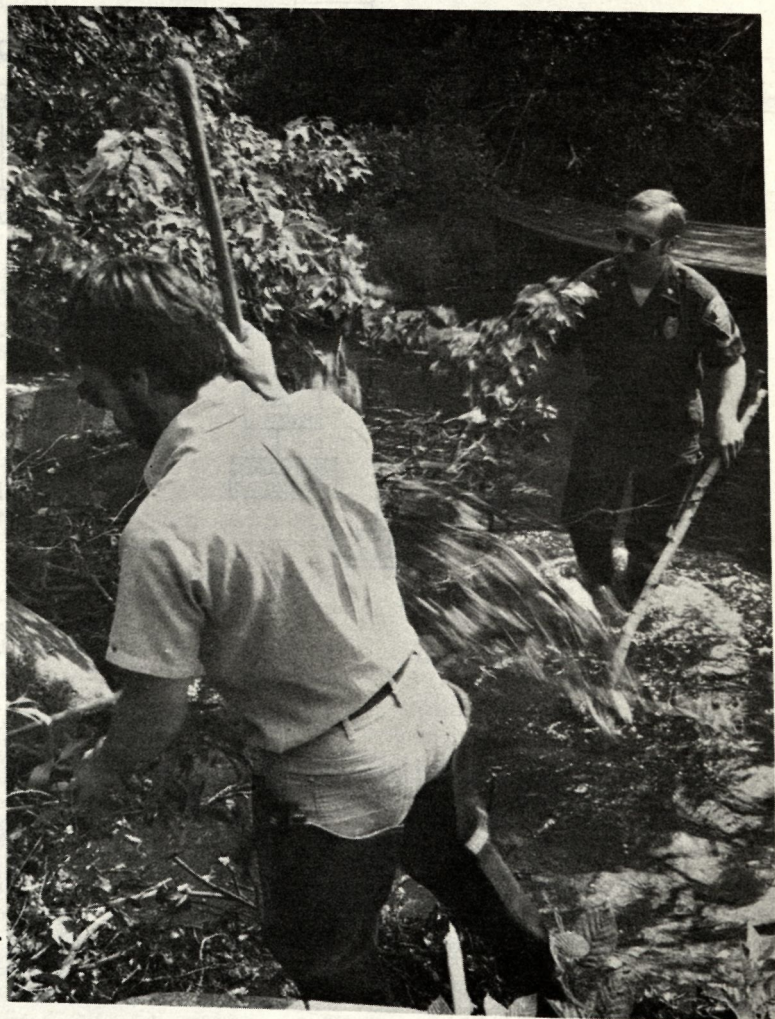
As a C.O. in DEP's Eastern District, Fred Ruhlemann spent about 80 percent of his time enforcing the law, which involved patrolling the area under his jurisdiction, checking for out-of-season hunters, hunters without licenses, anglers taking undersized fish, and illegal campers in State forests and parks and recreation areas.

But Ruhlemann, who last September became one of the two Sergeants in the DEP's Eastern District, would like to change the stereotype of the conservation officer as "game warden." "The words 'conservation officer' bring one of two ideas to people's minds," he says. "Either they see a C.O. as a 'bad guy,' someone who catches

them hunting without a license, or he's the sportsman's friend, the one you stop and ask, 'Hey, where are the fish biting?'"

In reality, although C.O.s do check up on hunters and offer advice to sportsmen, their jobs entail considerably more. I

accompanied Ruhlemann and Eastern District assistant wildlife biologist Mark Clavette one morning last summer when they went to set out live traps to remove beavers from a private pond near the Stafford/Union town line. During the drive from district headquarters on



Conservation Sergeant Fred Ruhlemann and biologist Mark Clavette set beaver traps.

Audrey Handelman

Route 66 in Marlborough, Ruhle-
mann explained to me what a
conservation officer's job is
all about.

To become a C.O., appli-
cants must pass a civil service
exam; to be eligible to take the
exam in the first place, they
must either be college graduates
or have four years' employment
in such environmentally related
fields as wildlife conservation,
fish culture, or law enforce-
ment. "It's one of the tougher
law enforcement jobs to get,"
says Ruhlemann. "The job re-
quires a working knowledge of
the law as it relates to hunt-
ing, fishing, and trapping, as
well as great familiarity with
native plant and animal spe-
cies." Certain physical require-
ments must also be met. In
addition to general good health,
a candidate for the position of
conservation officer must have
stamina, agility, endurance,
good hearing and eyesight, and
be able to swim 100 yards.

The State's inland patrol
system used to be set up on a
one man/one patrol area basis,
with each patrol area encom-
passing six towns. Now, DEP's
C.O.s operate in patrol zones;
there are five zones in the
Eastern District, patrolled by
two to four officers. (Six
officers and two supervisors are
also assigned to a Marine Dis-
trict, which covers the shore-
line from Greenwich to North
Stonington.) "The idea behind
the patrol zone divisions is to
provide citizens with more
continuous service," Ruhlemann
says. "If one man covered six
towns, he couldn't be everywhere
at once, and on his days off
there would be nobody in the
area unless a C.O. from another
area doubled up. This way,
we're a lot more flexible."

C.O.s get involved in a
variety of different projects.
"We all do many different jobs,"
says Ruhlemann. "We're lucky
that district biologists and the
C.O.s have such a good working
relationship--we do a lot to
help each other out." Conser-
vation officers gather informa-
tion for many field research
projects for district biolo-
gists, because, as Ruhlemann

puts it, "There are more of us
than there are of them." Also,
the C.O.s may end up being "on
the scene" anyway, because of
their law enforcement duties.
Recently, for example, C.O.s
participated in a three-year
project intended to determine
the characteristics of Connecti-
cut's deer herd. This they did
by performing autopsies on all
car-killed does and gathering
information on their unborn
young.

Conservation officers are
responsible for supervising
pheasant and trout stocking in
their respective zones. Most of
the stocking is carried out by
maintainers, but C.O.s coordi-
nate all stocking activity. They
also work closely with State and
local police and park patrolmen
in insuring the safety of par-
ticipants and spectators in the
Annual Connecticut River Raft
Race.

In 1938, a severe hurricane
ravaged Connecticut's forests,
knocking down most of the dead,
hollow trees. The absence of
such trees left no suitable
nesting sites for wood ducks.
Since that year, one of each
conservation officer's duties
has been setting out wood duck
nesting boxes in his area,
recording nesting activity, and
maintaining the boxes. Based on
eggshells found in the nesting
boxes, it was estimated that
about 80 percent of the boxes
were used successfully last
year.

"We do our work on the wood
duck boxes mostly in the winter
for two reasons," Ruhlemann
explains. "One is that winter
tends to be much less busy. We
have more time. The other
reason is that the boxes are put
up over bodies of water, and
it's a lot easier to get to
them by walking on the ice than
by standing up in a boat." C.O.s
report to regional biolo-
gists on the status of all wood
duck nesting boxes in their
areas.

Many aspects of the Conser-
vation Officer's job, such as
handling citizen complaints
about sick or injured animals,
require that he interact with

the public. "As a C.O.," Ruhle-
mann says, "You're the most
prominent part of the DEP,
because you're in uniform.
Being more visible to the public
means you have to be more con-
genial all the time--it takes a
certain knack. If you're a good
officer, you'll represent the
department's attitudes."

Each conservation officer,
although experienced in and
accustomed to functioning in
many capacities, has his own
particular interests and con-
cerns; Ruhlemann's are waterfowl
and fur-bearer management, and
he has assisted in giving
classes to beginning trappers
about trapping and the law.

Ruhlemann was also involved
in getting a beaver population
established at a pond in his
former patrol area. "That's
why I'm going out with Mark to
set these traps. It's not
something I do every day."

The traps were being set in
response to a citizen's com-
plaint about beavers interfering
with two dams in a private pond
by placing logs and branches,
their own damming material, over
the concrete of the man-made
dams. To live-trap the beavers,
Clavette and Ruhlemann first
removed some of the debris
placed over the concrete by the
beavers, allowing water to flow
over the dams. The noise of
running water alerts the beavers
that a leak needs to be stopped
to maintain the water level they
require. The traps are set near
the area where the dams are
broken, and when the beavers
begin to make repairs they're
likely to be caught.

"We should get them to-
night," said Clavette. "They'll
probably come out in the late
afternoon." He and Ruhlemann
planned to return the following
day to remove the trapped beav-
ers to the pond where they were
trying to establish a beaver
population. Trapping one group
of beavers is no guarantee,
however, that others will not
take up residence, and Ruhlemann
has advised the landowner to
allow trappers onto the land by
permit to keep the beaver prob-
lem under control. ■

For wildlife professionals, wildlife tends to come in two assortments -- too little and too much. The same animals sometimes fall into both categories.

For an example, Joseph Risigo, District Wildlife Supervisor in DEP's Eastern District, has been watching over a pair of beavers which are residents of a pond close by the road near DEP's District Headquarters in Marlborough. "People like to stop along the side of the road and watch them," says Risigo. But the State Department of Transportation has been worrying as their pond closes in toward the edge of the road.

To keep water levels from rising too high, Risigo inserted two four-inch pipes through their dam. But the beavers keep plugging up the pipes. So far, attempts to get them to move downstream below the road have been to no avail.

A few miles away Risigo points out a marshy area. Its owner enjoyed watching beavers at work. Across the street, however, the low-lying house-holders whose septic system was washed out by spreading waters found them anything but appealing, and Risigo was called in to mediate and arrange a move.

Handling nuisance animal complaints from the public is probably the best known function of DEP's district wildlife biologists but, in fact, it's only one of a long list of duties. "We staff the programs administered out of Hartford, as well as handling 'anything wildlife,'" says Risigo. He describes his responsibilities as falling mainly into habitat management, technical assistance, research, and information and education categories.

DEP Wildlife Bureau management programs aim to maintain wildlife populations compatible with habitat and human demands on the Eastern District's 120,000 acres of State-owned lands. How is it done? One of the biologists' jobs is reviewing State Forestry Unit cutting plans for the various State

Forests. "We recommend things to enhance habitat -- clear cutting areas, for example, instead of thinning, to diversify vegetation. The amount of this we do depends on Forestry's plans." For small projects, reviews of maps and plans may do. For larger areas or areas where, for example, wetlands are involved, there are also on-site inspections.

Public use requests, such as requests to use trails or roads for motor cycle trials or to extend the Blue Trail System, are likewise reviewed. The biologists consider both potential detrimental effects on wildlife and, in the case of the hiking trails, opportunities "to enhance the possibility of the public's being able to see wildlife by bringing the trails closer to wildlife habitat."

Just two wildlife biologists cover the Eastern District's 2,400 square miles, but they extend their efforts in various ways. One of these is overseeing 37 agricultural agreements, arrangements where farmers work DEP lands in wildlife areas and State forests for up to five-year periods in return for making habitat improvements -- bulldozing, clearing fields, mowing brush, planting wildlife foods, fixing access roads, or maintaining facilities. "Farmland is hard to come by in Connecticut. This is one way we can do habitat management and preserve some farming," says Risigo as he points out examples of such projects in the 800-acre Bishops Swamp Wildlife Management Area in Andover.

The district biologists sometimes get help from district maintenance forces but availability of maintenance personnel in heavily-used recreational areas such as the Long Island beaches is limited by other demands on their time. Conservation Officers do their part for wildlife, maintaining, under the biologists' direction, between 350 and 400 wood duck boxes in the Eastern District. District biologists also coordinate the liberation, by COs and maintenance staff, of

Wildlife biologist

... maintaining
animal
populations
compatible with
habitat, humans

20,000 pheasants each hunting season. In addition the biologists do "management work" for field dog trials held each year in the district and "kind of ride herd on" club use of two State owned and operated archery ranges.

The Eastern District biologists also watch over about 55 waterfowl marshes, maintaining the marshes and dikes and drawing down water to increase vegetation. In between other projects, they keep their eyes open for potential land acquisi-

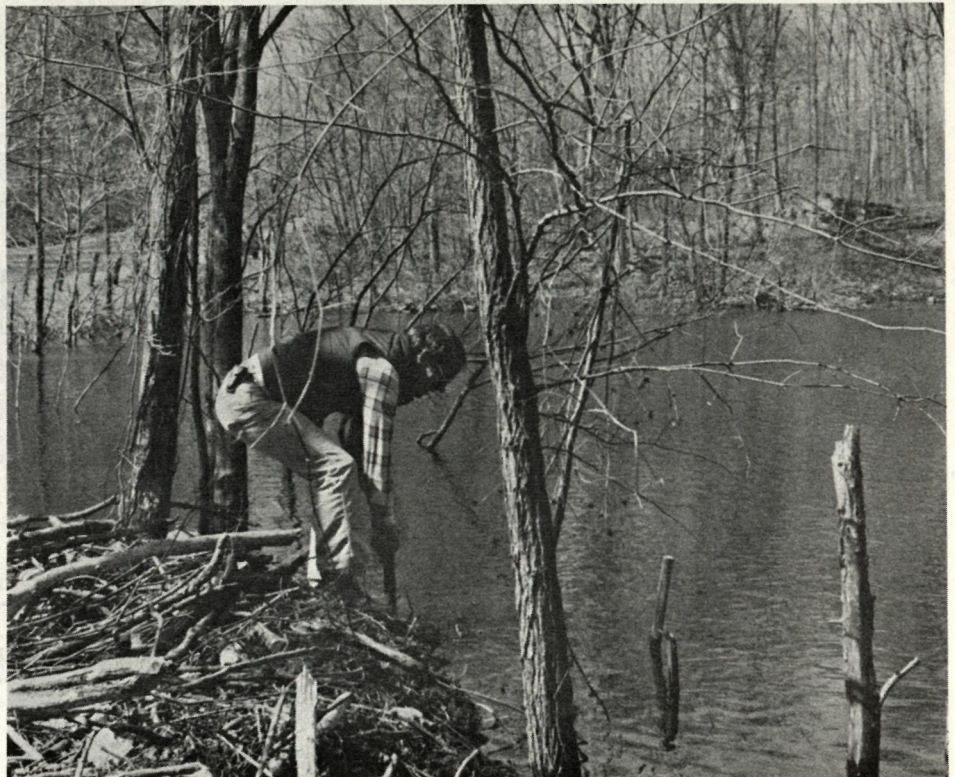
tions the Department should consider.

Technical assistance makes expertise in wildlife management available to other landholders and usually takes the form of writing management plans for private owners. "If it's over 100 acres, we like to get out and accommodate them," Risigo says. For smaller properties, Wildlife Biologist Karl Lutz is developing flyers on management practices, what to do with certain types of properties, and how to manage for individual species.

District biologists like Risigo and Lutz get involved, along with representatives from various other disciplines, in developing Environmental Impact Statements for proposed developments such as the proposed extension of Interstate 84. "We look at maps and sites, assessing what's there for wildlife, checking for tracks and actual sightings, considering possible negative effects," says Lutz. Risigo adds, "Even if we're recommending against development, I include in my report my suggestions on how to improve the area for wildlife."

Managing for wildlife is interspersed with managing marauding or other problem wildlife. Assistance with nuisance wildlife is one of Risigo's pet projects, and a highly important one he thinks, "because we are a public service agency." A survey he did recently found that DEP's nuisance animal complaints run close to 3,000 a year statewide and that's not counting complaints that go to Humane Societies, police departments, or other agencies.

Response begins with advice over the phone or by mail. If that isn't sufficient, the problem may be referred to a volunteer. "We had 125 volunteers last year," says Risigo, who coordinates this program, "most of them recruited through the Connecticut Trappers Association." If advice or volunteers fail, a Conservation Officer may go to the rescue. If the nuisance is a beaver, however, a



District Wildlife Supervisor Joseph Risigo checks beaver dam.

biologist or a C.O. always gets involved. "Beavers require specialized habitat, so you don't want to move them and create yourself a new problem," says Risigo. Statewide beaver relocations have run, he says, as high as 142 animals in a single year.

Risigo and Lutz also inspect for deer damage when commercial growers apply for deer damage permits. During one two- to three-month period, Risigo recalls, there were 60 to 65 such inspections.

Risigo's projects also include the statewide management of trapping on 149,000 acres of State-owned lands. Trappers bid for rights every four years, and he must develop maps, coordinate the bidding process, and handle the attendant paperwork. He also oversees the required tagging, on several weekends of each year, of pelts of four species.

In addition, as one of his research assignments, Risigo monitors eleven species of fur-bearing animals -- population trends and user trends -- and

serves as a member of the Northeast Fur Resources Technical Committee of the Northeast Wildlife Society.

Risigo's activities also include meetings and talks to groups like sportsmen's organizations and garden clubs and high school and college career days: "I advise students who want to go into wildlife biology to get something to back them up, something useful in big business like accounting or computers -- computers are also good for a wildlife biologist to know." He writes articles and gives interviews -- he's usually the one called when the controversial subject of trapping comes up--and has prepared information on the trapping issues for various groups including the State Legislature.

Projects vary with seasons and problems, but business is brisk: "I come in every morning at seven or seven-thirty, and I take a couple of hours work home every night," Risigo says. And he casually remarks, "I want my kids to be able to see all these animals."

What do you call someone who is a policeman, accountant, secretary, information specialist, field naturalist, handyman, trouble-shooter, planner, land-use manager, public relations expert, landscape architect, and scrounger all in one? A DEP Park & Recreation Manager, that's what! Responsible for the protection and maintenance of all Department land within their areas, Unit Managers employ all of the above-mentioned skills at one time or another in the performance of their jobs.

One unit, located just outside of Hartford, encompasses Stratton Brook, Penwood, and Talcott Mountain State Parks, Massaco State Forest, Great Pond, and the Enfield Dam fishing area, as well as a boat launch and wildlife management areas. Manager Marilyn Aarrestad is in charge of this heavily-used section. Trying to keep tabs on so many facilities would wear many a person to a frazzle, but Aarrestad has adjusted to the routine. "Outdoor recreation isn't just a career to me," she says, "it's a lifestyle."

Aarrestad came to the DEP in a rather roundabout way. It was, according to her, "... part persistence, part luck, and a lot of interest." After graduation from Southern Connecticut State College with a degree in Health and Physical Education/Recreation, she worked at a pheasant farm. This aroused her interest in Environmental Education, and she began to work toward a Master's Degree in that field. A stint teaching New York inner-city children about the outdoors during the school year followed, and during the summer of 1976 she served as a crew leader in the DEP's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). A full-time job as a crew leader with the Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC) led to her present position. Marilyn scored first on the Park & Recreation Manager I examination and was appointed to the position in 1980.

The Stratton Brook-Penwood-Talcott Mountain Unit is one of

By Leslie Bieber, Citizen Participation Coordinator

Park Manager

... policeman, accountant,
naturalist, handyman, p. r. expert

the most heavily used in the State. Because of its proximity to Hartford, Penwood gets the first influx of outdoor enthusiasts in the springtime -- usually college students out to shake off the winter doldrums and "catch some rays." Stratton Brook's swimming area attracts crowds during the warmer months, and the Heublein Tower on Talcott Mountain is one of the State's premier fall attractions. As many as 1600 people passed through the tower in one day last fall. Obviously this use causes a lot of wear and tear on facilities and staff; a manager needs to know how to deal with both.

Being able to prepare and live within a budget is a necessity for any Manager. Aarrestad, for instance, has a \$2,000 allocation in fiscal 1982 for maintenance of the entire area. This must cover the cost of repairing broken windows, wrecked outhouses, and crotchety

vehicles, as well as disposing of garbage from each facility. Something as major as a blown engine on the only unit truck could put a substantial dent in the year's finances. Consequently, managers have learned to rely on one another, and serendipity (the unexpected finding of treasure), to make ends meet. As Aarrestad says, "A lot of 'let's make a deal' goes on. A manager may be able to trade some extra wood for some scrap metal or the like."

Limited budgets also mean that all but the most complicated projects become do-it-yourself. Unit managers should be capable of handling some plumbing and electrical work, painting, and simple construction. Maintainers and summer employees provide help in these areas. Roads must be plowed in the winter, trees felled with chainsaws -- in short, management of a State Park or Forest



Park & Recreation Manager Marilyn Aarrestad looks over one of recreation areas she's responsible for.

takes an individual who doesn't mind hard work all year round.

During the summer season, much of a Unit Manager's time is devoted to law enforcement. Infractions range from littering to disorderly behavior. The ability to deal calmly and effectively with a park visitor who may have had more than his share of "thirst quencher" should be a manager's forte and can prevent potentially more serious problems. Managers work cooperatively with police departments all over the State in order to ensure that those who violate park rules pay their fines. Rescue and first aid efforts are coordinated with local fire departments, but all managers are trained in first aid procedures and cardiopulmonary resuscitation for immediate response.

Although the warm weather brings the largest number of people to the State facilities, there is never really a slack time according to Aarrestad. The fall is the season for outdoor repairs of summer damage, projects that couldn't be undertaken while crowds were in the park, and surveying the area for remedial work to be finished

over the winter. Spring sees preparation for the peak use time, turning on water, and hiring part-time help. "There's not what I'd call a slow season," she says, "just different priorities. Year-round recreation means that we're busy all the time."

If there is one attribute that an aspiring unit manager must possess, it's liking people -- all kinds of people. Year in and year out, the public will be in the parks and forests, and the manager must act as a worthy representative of the Department. As with everything, there are some park users who are the proverbial rotten apples. Aarrestad remains positive about the job though. "More and more members of the vacationing public are aware of the limits of the DEP's resources, especially in the areas of budget and maintenance. Those of us in the field need to keep in close touch with the main office in Hartford now, so that we can answer the public's questions about these issues in a more educated manner." She also feels that it is important to know the type of clientele who utilize particular facili-

ties so that their recreational needs can be met.

To an observer the life of a Unit Manager may appear idyllic with its close communion with nature and the great outdoors. But, as in most professions these days, there is also the inevitable paperwork to plow through. And working hours? Theoretically, it's a 35-hour week; in reality, a manager may well work 60 or 70 hours (without overtime) during the height of the busy season. The low rate of turnover in this job class, however, seems to indicate that the vast majority of DEP's Unit Managers feel that it beats whatever it is in second place!

Asked if she had any advice for current (or future) managers, Marilyn Aarrestad thinks a bit, and then gives this reply: "I'd say use all of your resources wisely -- staff, financial, and natural. And remember that you are charged with the protection of land held in the public trust. Whatever you do, whatever projects you undertake, the public's interest must shape your ultimate decisions."

Trees are a resource whose importance not only to man but to all elements of the biosphere is beginning to be recognized. Forests must be managed not only for maximum output of timber and firewood; they must also be managed in a way which considers a wide range of factors including wildlife, recreational use, erosion, and aesthetics. Recent increases in demand for wood as an energy source and demand for land for residences and industry sharpen the temptation to sacrifice long-range forest stability for short-term economic gains.

"Forestry" can be defined as the science of controlling, producing, and utilizing forests to realize the greatest human benefits. Whether these benefits take the form of recreation, soil and watershed protection, or timber harvesting, they are continual, renewable benefits. "Economic" or commercial forestry deals with the production of forest trees as crops which yield wood and wood by-products as raw materials to be used by humans. The science of forestry would be unnecessary if wood supplies produced by nature matched human demands for these supplies.

As with management of any natural population or system, a greater understanding of the resource and its natural characteristics leads to wiser management. When the specific needs of various species are understood, management plans can be designed to accommodate those needs. A major emphasis in the

management of both State Forests and private lands today is the concept of multiple-use management: managing for wildlife, erosion control, aesthetics, and recreation, as well as for timber and cord wood production.

"If I can keep loggers, hikers, cyclists, and wildlife enthusiasts satisfied, then I know I'm doing something right," says Huber Hurlock, a forester in DEP's Eastern District.

Hurlock, who is in charge of managing the district's forest resources, has developed a multiple-use plan which includes the following goals: improving communication between landowner, land user, logger, and land manager; developing healthier forests on all State-owned forest lands by planned harvest to control density, species composition, and the quality of the residual stand; regenerating species suited to particular sites; preventing or controlling erosion on forest roads and trails; increasing wildlife carrying capacity of State park, forest, and wildlife management lands; and improving public access and information on access to State lands as well as providing boundary and trail maps to hikers, hunters, fishermen, and other outdoorsmen.

Managing the district's roughly 130,000 acres of forest to meet these goals is a year-round occupation. Hurlock and nine other foresters spend summer inventorying the forests

under Eastern District jurisdiction. Doing an inventory involves determining the characteristics of different forest areas by inspection. Are the areas flat or hilly, rocky, swampy, or dry? What species dominate each area? How large are the trees? Are they healthy?

An inventory of what formerly was DEP's Region III was begun in 1972. Foresters covered about 10 percent of this 60,000 acre area each year; now, after ten years, the process is beginning again, since natural circumstances such as growth, fires, or hurricanes may have changed any area's characteristics.

In the fall, Hurlock develops management plans, using information gathered during the summer and information from topographic and soil maps. If an area is to be logged or cut for timber, Hurlock designs roads carefully in accordance with terrain, drainage patterns, and intended usage to prevent unnecessary erosion. Other areas, such as those which are particularly dry or marshy, may be left "undamaged," because yields from managing are far outweighed by the possible harm to the environment.

The Eastern District's nine foresters, supervised and assisted by Hurlock, spend the late fall marking State forest boundaries. Each forester marks about 20 miles of boundary annually. "We have to know

Forester

By Audrey Handelman, Environmental Intern

... keeping loggers, hikers,
wildlife enthusiasts satisfied

where State land leaves off and private land begins," Hurlock says. "We can't mark all the boundaries because we don't have the manpower or the money, so we end up just marking those areas which will be affected by what we want to do in terms of logging."

In February and March, the foresters advise landowners about the planting of seedlings as a part of the State's tree seedling program (Eastern District forestry professionals also include the State Forest Nursery Manager). Foresters give the public information on what kinds of trees to plant in what locations and how to space them properly.

Hurlock also works with the District's two fire-control officers, and March and April are spent in training fire crews. According to Hurlock, a good deal of time goes into training fire crews in the early spring because late April and May is a high-risk period for forest fires. "The ground is drying out," he says. "It's heating up, but the leaves aren't out yet to hold the moisture and prevent the action of the sun from heating the surface of the ground and making the risk of fires high." He adds that last year gypsy moth caterpillars' leaf eating resulted in the State's having forest fires well into the summer.

Following the principles of multiple-use management means that Hurlock must make decisions which balance the various options available and try to maximize the types of potential use. At Meshomasic State Forest, for example, Hurlock wants to develop an uneven-aged forest. Much of the area was clear cut in 1918 to get wood for charcoal; as a result, most of the trees there now are of the same age. "We want to vary the age, size, and variety of the trees so that the area will be able to support more different kinds of wildlife and will not be as susceptible to natural disasters like fires and disease and insect infestations. It may take 20 or 30 years to build the kind of



Audrey Handelman

Foster Huber Hurlock looks at condition of a forested area.

diversity we want, but we're working on it."

In managing an area for wildlife, foresters may often leave some "unhealthy" trees--ones which are old or rotten inside--because they provide shelter for many species of birds and other wildlife.

Most of the roads through State forest areas are well-maintained. Some are town roads, but others are paid for through money from logging activity. Erosion control is a top priority on Hurlock's list; keeping roads from washing out requires not only proper placement of run-off ditches and proper grading, but also efforts to keep recreational vehicles

off trails which are particularly prone to erosion. "Since we don't have any funds specifically for erosion control," says Hurlock, "We write it into logging contracts as a part of road-building."

Hurlock is proud of what he has accomplished in the past ten years as far as implementing a multiple-use management. "Under DEP's new two-district organization," he says, "having a larger area of responsibility and more dedicated foresters doing the work, things should continue well in the future." He adds, "Some of the State land looks better managed now than a lot of private land."

It's no secret. What the public wants to know about fish is "Where are they?" and "How do I catch them?"

What fisheries biologists want to know about any species in any body of water is a little different. It includes: "How many are there?" "How large do they grow?" "How long-lived are they?" "How much fishing pressure do they face?" "How good are the fishermen?" And, most important for management, "How much fishing can this population withstand?"

Although District Fisheries Supervisor Charles Phillips thinks the "sociological side" of some of his current research projects is the more difficult to estimate, finding out what's happening with the fish isn't exactly simple either.

Checking up on the trout population in a stretch of the Willimantic River in Tolland one hot day last August, Phillips traveled accompanied by a team of six. The group mounted a small electric generator on a platform on the river bank and attached 200 feet or so of cord and a "boom" of several lengths of metal pole. The generator was started, and two team members dragged the boom upstream, effectively "zapping" fish traveling in the sampling area, shocking them enough to stun but not injure them.

Two team members following behind the boom netted the shocked fish. Fish of species other than trout -- bass, suckers, a pickerel -- were thrown back. The trout taken were checked for finclips, weighed, measured, and released. About 20 seconds after their shock, none the worse for wear, they were back in the water.

Fisheries biologist

... looking at
the fishermen
as well as
checking up on fish

There was one flaw in the morning's picture: by noon the team had taken a total of two trout. "I think we would have had more luck with lures," joked one of Phillips' helpers. (Fortunately the next day and a half of sampling yielded an additional 41 trout.)

The foray in question was part of the research being done on trout management areas in the Willimantic and the Housatonic rivers. The project is a joint effort of DEP's Eastern and Western District fisheries biologists. Phillips heads the Willimantic study, while Robert Orciari supervises the Housatonic program. The goal is to evaluate the effect of "catch and release" areas in conserving larger numbers of trout in protected stretches of stream.

The four-year project is only in its first year, Phillips points out, but from early data it appears that fishermen in the two catch and release areas are more successful than anglers on streams where a five-trout-per-day creel limit is in effect. There are still a lot of variables to account for, he says. Are more fish actually available? Or are the fishermen who use these areas more effective? There are also complications like periods of low water flow, such as occurred last summer, when the fish confuse the issue by moving downstream to cooler, more "comfortable" sites.

On the social research side of this project, during fishing season "creel census agents" spend three days each week along

with every weekend and holiday interviewing fishermen to obtain information on catches, levels of effort, and angler attitudes on the catch and release areas in both the Willimantic and the Housatonic. About 150 fishermen have also agreed to keep diaries on their catches and the amounts of effort they expend in the areas.

Phillips and other inland fisheries biologists are also involved in a statewide study on largemouth bass, supervised by Ernest Beckwith. The bass study is being conducted on six lakes where a six-bass-per-day creel limit exists and on two reservoirs where fishing is prohibited. Unlike the Willimantic River study, on this project the biologists are doing their "electro-fishing" at night, from a boat, in two- to ten-foot-deep waters. As with the trout, the largemouth bass taken will be weighed and measured and scale samples will be taken to determine each bass's age. They'll be marked to allow future identification. Stocks of largemouth bass in each of the lakes will be compared over a five-year period to help the fisheries biologists develop a management strategy that can be applied statewide.

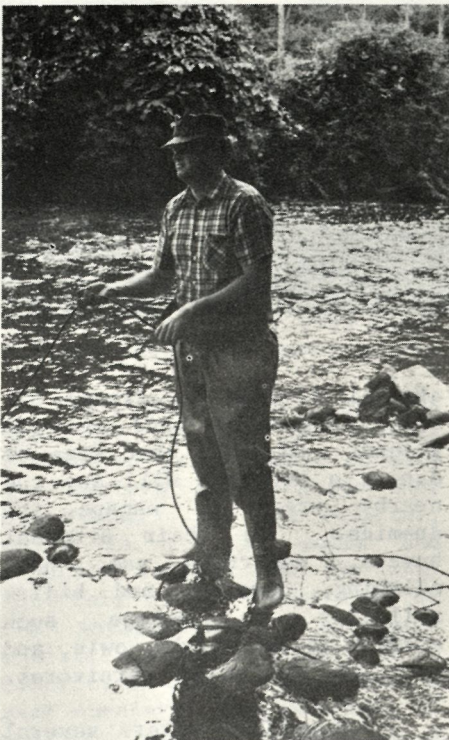
Phillips is also studying the northern pike in Eastern Connecticut to evaluate whether the current 26-inch length limit should be changed. "We could," he says, "put the limit at 22 inches, or 24 inches, or 30 inches. We have to determine what is the best thing for the fishery. We have to consider that the pike population fluctuates -- some year classes are strong, some are weak. We don't want to set the limit so low we wipe out any of these year classes. We want to assess the growth of the population along with the numbers caught and the sizes. For most of the fisheries in Connecticut, fishing pressure is fairly high--but northern pike in the Connecticut River don't appear to get high pressure. Considering the limited longevity of northern pike, we may want to adjust the length limits to better utilize the resource."

Information on northern pike is being developed from tags returned by fishermen (a \$5 reward was instituted last year), and Phillips will be examining northern pike gill-netted in selected coves and edge areas along the Connecticut River from South Windsor to Lyme.

Though project report writing is done by solitary biologists at their desks in mid-winter, field research in fisheries is seldom a solo act. Besides working on northern pike and on the two statewide studies, this summer Phillips may also assist Eastern District Fisheries Biologist Joseph Piza, who is planning a study to determine whether stocking alewives will stimulate the growth of predator fish in landlocked waters.

Seasonal workers, generally fisheries students, are hired to help with the field surveys, and Phillips starts out each new season by teaching them to operate the district's boats and motors, to handle nets, set nets, and handle fish.

Phillips figures he spends 35 to 40 percent of his time in



District Fisheries Supervisor Charles Phillips "shocking fish" in Willimantic River.

field work. "The best part of the job" he says, "is not being confined to a desk all the time."

But he emphasizes that his business is far from being all research. In one of their most evident and popular direct public service activities, district fisheries biologists work with the State fish hatchery managers and Conservation Officers, before and during the early part of the fishing season, scheduling trout stocking in their areas of the State.

Another public service provided by Phillips and the State's other district fisheries biologists is consulting with landowners who have questions about managing ponds. They'll suggest, for instance, types and numbers of fish to stock and methods for controlling nuisance aquatic vegetation. Whether you get literature, telephoned information, or a site visit depends, Phillip says, on the nature of the problem. Requests for management advice reached highs in the mid-70s, he says, and then decreased some, but they seem to be picking up again. Phillips estimates that each fisheries biologist handles a minimum of 40 to 50 such requests a year.

Inland fisheries biologists are also called in as consultants on fish passage construction projects: for environmental reviews of proposed developments; on erosion and stream relocation projects planned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Soil Conservation Service; and on highway projects, such as some of the sections of Interstate 84, where passage for fish under the road work is required.

Winter is the time, Phillips says, "When I'm buried alive in a sea of paperwork . . . and I'd rather be out in a boat. In November and December, he analyzes data gathered in the field from April through October. And January and February he describes as his months for writing reports and accounting for federal aid. ■

Squirrels

By David Platt, Research Assistant, DEP Wildlife Unit



Leonard Lee Rue III photos, red squirrel

The four species of squirrels that live in Connecticut are the gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*), and the southern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*). These members of the rodent family are quick and agile animals with well developed senses of smell, sight, touch, and hearing.

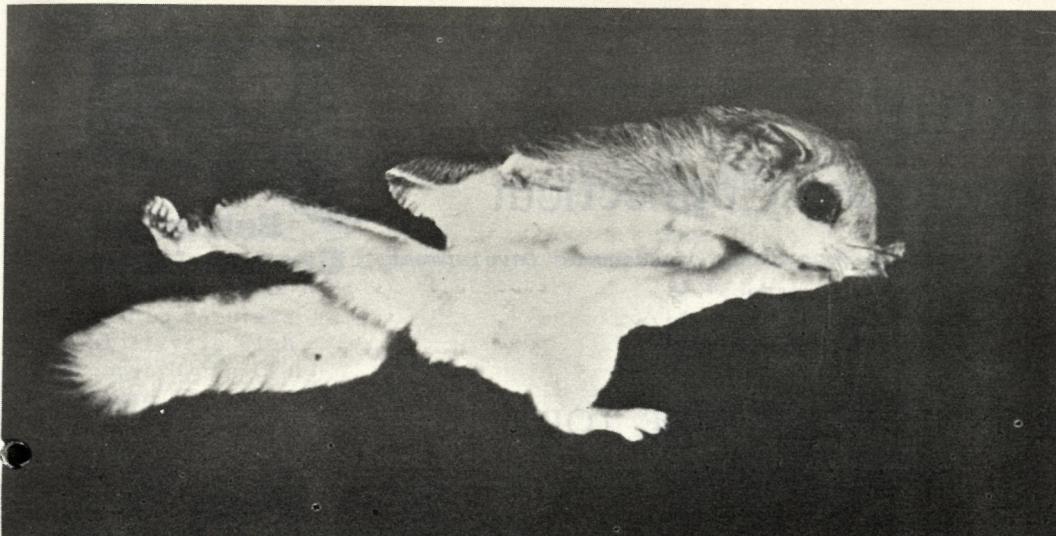
The squirrels that inhabit Connecticut are mainly

aboreal (living in trees) but will frequently feed on the ground. At the least sign of danger a squirrel will use the nearby trees to escape its enemies. In their arboreal havens, squirrels use their climbing, jumping, and hiding abilities to escape such enemies as man, hawks, owls, and most of the small carnivores.

Connecticut offers several different types of habitat for squirrels. Hardwood, coniferous, and mixed forests provide

suitable habitats for the different species. Hardwood forests that consist mainly of nut trees provide a favorable habitat for the gray squirrel, while mixed and coniferous forests provide superb habitat for red and flying squirrels.

Nut trees such as hickory, oak, butternut, and beech provide the gray squirrel with much of its food. The gray squirrel will also feed on seeds, fungi, fruits, and the cambium layer beneath the bark



of trees. The gray squirrel is a medium sized tree squirrel that averages one pound at maturity. The dominant color of a typical gray squirrel is a mottled salt and pepper that appears from gray to silvery. The long, bushy tail is a distinguishing characteristic of this species. Color variations, dark and light, are widespread and common because tree squirrels are genetically unstable.

The gray squirrel does not hibernate in winter but will stay in its den or leaf nest for several days during windy, wet weather. Through the winter a gray squirrel feeds mainly on nuts and acorns stored in many ground hideaways that the squirrel finds its way back to using its sense of smell. During early spring, gray squirrels mate and have their first of two litters, usually consisting of from two to four young.

Connecticut's other tree squirrel is the smaller red squirrel. The coloration of a red squirrel is yellowish to reddish, being duller in the summer and having a black line along the sides. The habitats preferred by red squirrels are coniferous forests and mixed forests where they feed on seeds, nuts, fruit, cones, insects, and an occasional bird egg. Red squirrels are often heard before being seen because their noisy chatter frequently fills the forest.

The northern and southern flying squirrels have ranges that include Connecticut. The two are very similar in appearance, with the northern flying squirrel being slightly larger. Flying squirrels are gentle animals with soft brown fur above and white below. They inhabit coniferous and mixed forests, where they feed on seeds, nuts, insects, eggs, and occasionally on meat. Unlike the diurnal (active in the daytime) gray and red squirrels, flying squirrels are almost entirely nocturnal (active at night).

Flying squirrels are incapable of flight; however they glide through the air with great ease. They have loose folds of skin extending from the front legs to the rear feet. By extending their limbs and stretching the skin, flying squirrels can glide with great agility down to a lower point.

The gray and the fox squirrels are the two species considered game animals in many northeastern states where they are found. The fox squirrel, which is red in color and slightly larger than the gray squirrel, is not found east of the Appalachians. The gray squirrel is the only squirrel in Connecticut that is considered a game species. The abundance of the gray squirrel makes it a popular target for the young sportsman, who can hunt it in the woods near home.

Two of the most popular techniques for squirrel hunting are still-hunting and stalking. Squirrels have two basic traits that must be considered when hunting. First, a squirrel will hide from noise and the presence of man. Second, squirrels do most of their feeding and moving at dawn and just before dark.

Still-hunting is hunting from a fixed location, usually resting against the trunk of a tree. If gray squirrels are present, the stillness of a morning may be broken by their movements high in the trees or the sound of nuts hitting the ground.

The preferred weapon for this type of shooting is a .22 rimfire rifle. The mounting of a low-powered scope will allow for better shot placement to prevent damage to meat. In Connecticut, where there are not large areas of uninhabited land, it is recommended that you not shoot a rifle up in the air.

When stalking squirrels the hunter moves slowly and quietly through the forest, watching and listening for the slightest movement or noise. It's likely that the squirrel will detect a human presence and make a move for safety. The shotgun is the preferred weapon in this type of hunting because the squirrel is likely to be a moving target.

Hunting squirrels is a slow moving, quiet sport that

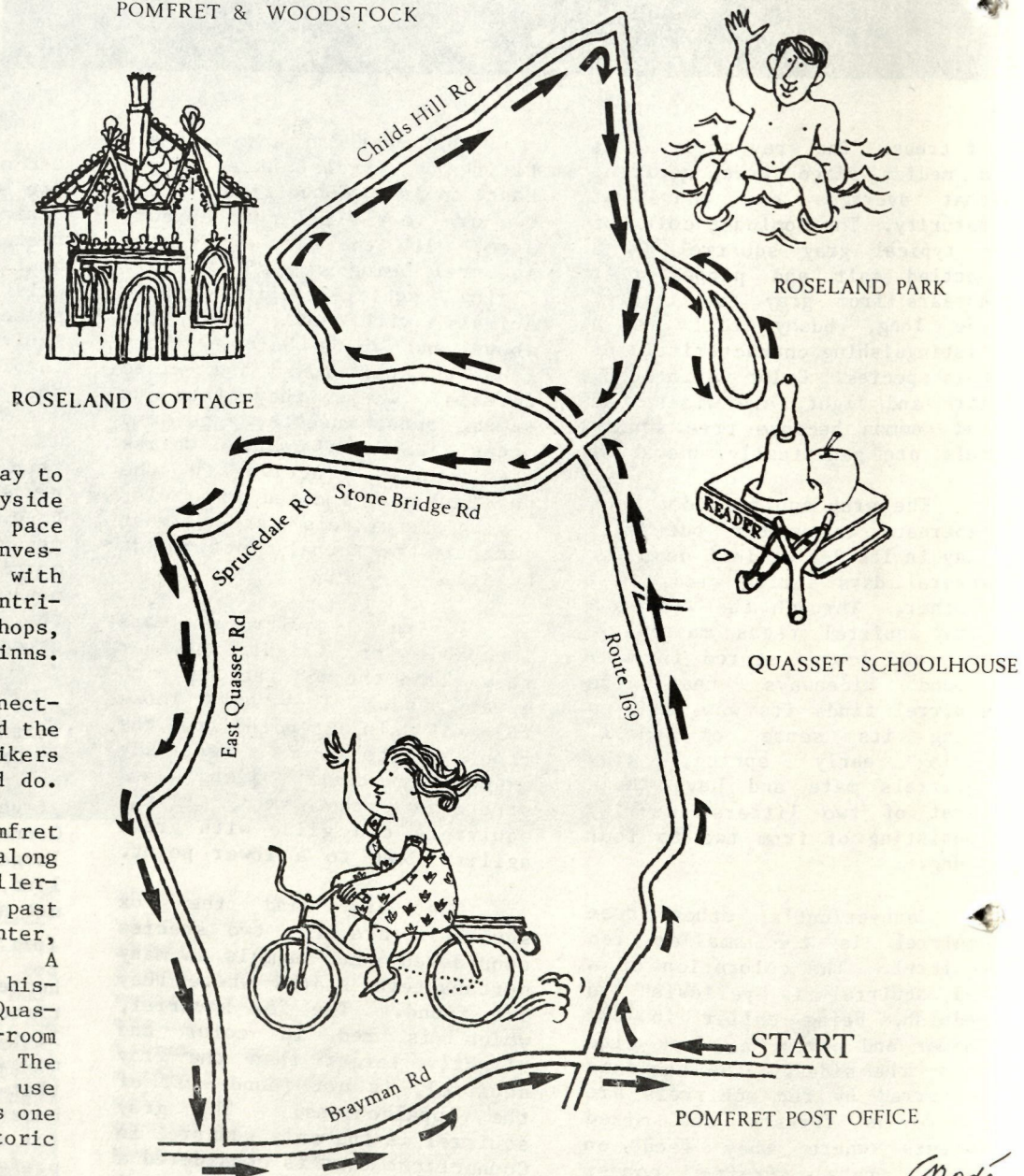
Bike hiking is a great way to see Connecticut

By Barbara Beeching, Connecticut Department of Economic Development



CONNECTICUT BIKE TOUR

POMFRET & WOODSTOCK



Bicycling is a great way to enjoy Connecticut's countryside this summer. The leisurely pace allows plenty of time to investigate scenic villages with their historic buildings, intriguing crafts and antiques shops, and charming country inns.

In northeastern Connecticut, the countryside around the village of Pomfret offers bikers a lot of things to see and do.

Starting at the Pomfret Post Office, head north along Route 169, down a long rollercoaster of a hill, then on past Data General's Cultural Center, formerly Annhurst College. A bit farther along 169 a historical marker points out Quasset School, the oldest one-room schoolhouse in America. The building was in continuous use from 1748 until 1945 and is one of Connecticut's truly historic buildings.

As you pedal into the village of Woodstock, a pink Victorian valentine of a "cottage" on the west side of the

Grade 78

Connecticut Bicycle Clubs

Central CT Bike Club	22 Chamberlain Highway	Kensington, CT 06037
Citius Cycling Club	224 Stanwich Road	Greenwich, CT 06830
CT Valley Bicycle Club	P.O. Box 75	Windsor Locks, CT 06096
CT Yankee Bicycle Club	Box 609	New Milford, CT 06776
Electric Boat Athletic Club	Eastern Point Road	Groton, CT 06340
Hartford Velo Club	58 Federal Circle	New Britain, CT 06053
Housatonic Ramblers	Lincoln City Road	Lakeville, CT 06039
Laurel Bicycle Club	P.O. Box 386	North Haven, CT 06473
Metacomet Cycle Club	37 Howe Street	New Haven, CT 06511
Middlesex Bicycle Club	126 Highland Avenue	Middletown, CT 06457
Milford Wheelmen	956 Bridgeport Avenue	Milford, CT 06460
Nova Cycle Club	88 East Main Street	Clinton, CT 06413
Nutmeg Wheelmen	P.O. Box 63	Bloomfield, CT 06002
Sound Cyclist Bicycle Club	172 Ponus Road	Norwalk, CT 06850
Rising Sun Cycle Club	1171 Main Street	Willimantic, CT 06226
Spartan Racing Club	7 Hillcrest Road	Enfield, CT 06082
Yankee Peddlers	Main Street	Norwich, CT 06360
American Youth Hostels, Inc.	Box 10392	West Hartford, CT 06110
Appalachian Mt. Club (c/o Gerald Hardy)	74 Avondale Road	Manchester, CT 06040
Silk City Cyclists (c/o David Holmes)	243 Green Road	Manchester, CT 06040
American Recreation Activities, Inc.	509 Farmington Avenue	Hartford, CT 06105
Connecticut Sports Club	908 Farmington Avenue	West Hartford, CT 06119
Connecticut Sports Club	2415 Main Street	Stratford, CT 06497
Bicycle Touring Club of Northwest CT	North Shore Rd.	New Preston, CT 06777
E-Z Riders Bicycle Club	P.O. Box 1523	Torrington, CT 06790

green catches your eye. This is "Roseland," built in 1846 and the scene of lavish Fourth of July parties at which such 19th century notables as Presidents Grant, Hayes, Harrison, and McKinley, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Harriet Beecher Stowe were entertained. The conversations were reputed to be as scintillating as the sky rockets. It's open Tuesday through Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

At the end of the green, take Child's Hill Road down the hill to Roseland Park Road. Follow this to Roseland Park itself, an ideal spot for a lunch break, with fine facilities for boating, swimming, or a game of tennis in the park's turn-of-century atmosphere. Once refreshed, head back to the road and resume your tour.

At the common in South Woodstock, turn right onto Stone Bridge Road. Crossing Route 169, shift gears as you climb toward Sprucedale Road (it will be on your left). Follow Sprucedale to East Quasset Road, and take the left branch till you pass Fox Hill Road. Pause here to catch your breath and

survey the surrounding countryside.

Continue along East Quasset until it "T's" into Brayman Road (Route 97). Turn left. Follow Brayman up the hill, across Route 169, to the Pomfret Post Office.

The Connecticut Department of Economic Development has put together the list of bicycling clubs that follows. For information about other Connecticut attractions, write "Vacations," Connecticut Department of Economic Development, 210 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

Information Centers

The Department of Economic Development's State Tourism Division staffs 12 highway information centers from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day:

I-95

Darien (eastbound at Ho-Jo Rest Stop)
Westbrook (northbound, between exits 65 & 66)
North Stonington (westbound, near exit 92)

Merritt Parkway -- Rte. 15

Greenwich (northbound at filling station)

I-84

Danbury (eastbound)
Southington (eastbound, between exits 28 & 30)

I-86

Willington (eastbound and westbound, near exit 101)

I-91

Middletown (northbound, near exit 19)
Wallingford (southbound, between exits 15 & 14)

Route 52

Plainfield (northbound and southbound, near toll station)

The major resource offered by the centers, in addition to its information specialists who are on duty 10 hours a day, seven days a week, is the State's 1982-83 Vacation Guide.

Additional information centers are located at Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks; Olde Mistick Village, Mystic (I-95 ex. 90); in New Haven at 157 Church St.; and at the Old State House, Hartford

CAM NEWS

Rediscover your coast this summer

It's a hot, sunny Saturday morning, a perfect day for the beach. The family's ready to go; the cooler's filled; the car's packed with blankets, towels, tackle boxes, and children. What you'd really like to do, though, is try a different beach this time. A little more secluded, maybe -- with a picnic area for lunchtime. But which beach? And how do you get there?

By following one of the many Routes to the Shore.

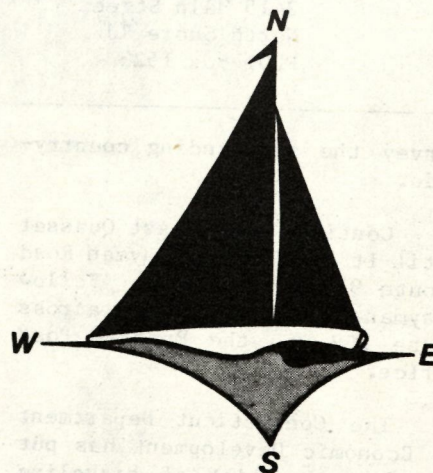
During the winter months, members of the CAM staff have been hard at work preparing a Connecticut Coastal Recreation Guide that would be ready in time for this summer. The map is now available, and it includes descriptions of and directions to about 50 state and municipal parks, beaches, and boat launches.

The concept of the recreation map originated as a coastal management special project to increase public awareness of recreational opportunities along the Connecticut shoreline. The guide has roughly the same dimensions as a large road map, and it folds to a size that fits conveniently into a car's glove compartment. The map shows the Connecticut coastal area only and divides the shoreline into five enlarged insets, or "mini-maps," that highlight the southern edge of the state from Route 95 to the water's edge. Both major highways and smaller roads are clearly shown and easy to follow.

The map is brightly colored in varying shades of blue with

small yellow sunbursts to mark the beaches, green sailboats to show the boat launches, and dark blue screened areas to identify the parks. On the back of the guide is a large chart that lists the parks and beaches along the coast. A quick glance across any section of the chart

Routes



to the Shore

will show whether or not a particular recreation spot offers any of the following facilities: swimming area, boating ramp, fishing pier, athletic field, campground, picnic area, and restrooms. There is also a short paragraph of directions listed next to each recreation area, and the guide provides additional information about entrance fees, telephone numbers, and parking facilities.

This can be the summer to explore new vacation spots, or it can just be a time to find faster, easier routes to favorite places. In either case, Connecticut invites you to enjoy its coastline and DEP's Routes to the Shore is designed to get you there. You may request your free copy of the recreation guide by writing to Planning and Coordination/Coastal Area Management, 71 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06115 or by calling the CAM office at 566-7404. ■

Weather data guide

Climate Data Sources in Connecticut, a Guide to Weather Observations in Connecticut, has just been published by the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

This easy to use manual provides a comprehensive listing of public and private weather stations in Connecticut. It includes for each station the location, the weather measured, the length of record, how the data are recorded, instruments used, calibrations performed, and the observer or contact. The text outlines the various types of weather stations and the types of instruments used to record each parameter. It summarizes the observations available with charts depicting record lengths both by county and state-wide and maps displaying the distribution of sites where each parameter is measured.

Send \$4.00 for each copy of Climate Data Sources in Connecticut to: College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Agricultural Publications, Box U-35, Storrs, CT 06268.

To the Captain:

some reminders

By Frank Glista, DEP Boating Safety Representative

The first responsibility of every skipper is the safety of his passengers, his vessel, other vessels, and other water users.

The captain assumes full responsibility for seeing to it that all the legally required safety equipment and other essential equipment is on board and in excellent operating condition.

1. A good skipper is always in control of his vessel and the situation.

Do not permit persons to ride on parts of the boat that are not designed for such use. Bow, gunwale or seat-back riding are especially dangerous practices.

2. A good skipper knows the laws and regulations and obeys them.

Do not permit water skiing in congested areas and always have an observer on board while skiing is in progress.

3. A good skipper does not exceed his capability or that of his craft.

Exceeding the carrying capacity or the horsepower recommendations of the manufacturer and the U.S. Coast Guard is a violation of state and federal law. Attempting a passage beyond the capability of the vessel is courting disaster.

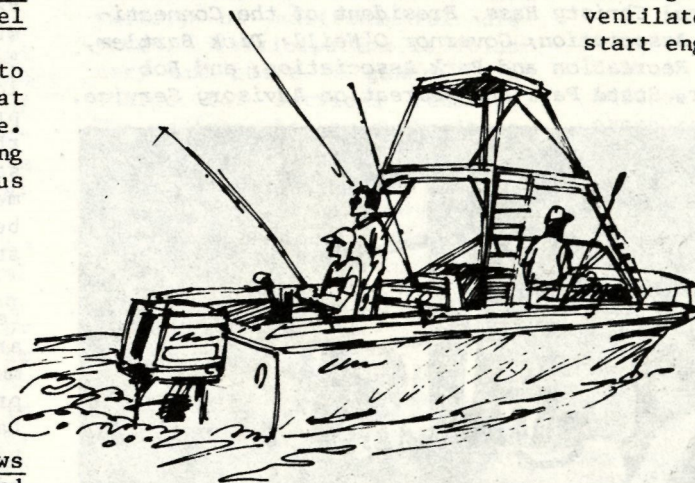
4. A good skipper knows and obeys the navigation rules.

Always be alert for violations by thoughtless operators on the waters and give way to avoid collisions.

5. A good skipper operating on larger water bodies understands navigation, is familiar with charts, and understands the symbols thereon.

Always plot the safest course and stay on it, using dead reckoning, relative bearings, and time, speed and distance calculations.

6. A good skipper is always alert for danger and assists others in distress or danger.



The good Samaritan rule requires boat operators to assist others if such aid does not endanger their own vessels or passengers.

7. A good skipper is especially careful when operating near areas where swimmers or divers may be.

Divers are easily recognized by the red flag with a diagonal white slash that marks the center of their activity. Bathing beaches are identified by white buoys with an orange diamond with a cross.

8. A good skipper considers weather before cruising and stays alert to changes that might occur.

Head for safety if there are squalls or severe storms.

9. A good skipper is especially careful during fueling operations.

Portable tanks should be filled outside the boat, with nozzle in contact with tank to prevent static sparks. On boats with permanently installed tanks, close all doors, hatches and ports, turn all electrical switches off, and, of course, no smoking. After fueling, ventilate before attempting to start engines.

10. A good skipper is courteous.

Watch your wake and wash as it can cause serious damage or create hazardous conditions for others. You are legally responsible for your wake. Travel at a slow speed within 100 feet of shore, docked or moored vessels, small boats, canoes, and sailboats. Observe posted speed limits in narrow channels.

Are you a competent skipper?

A home study boating safety manual is available to boat owners. For a copy, write DEP Information and Education Unit, State Office Building, Hartford, CT 06115.



Life. Be in it.

©1975 State of Victoria, Australia

By Leslie Bieber, Citizen Participation Coordinator

Governor O'Neill endorsed the "Life. Be in it" campaign. Left to right: William Miller, Director of State Parks and Recreation; Dorothy Muller, Northeast Regional Director of the National Recreation and Park Association; Christy Hass, President of the Connecticut Recreation and Park Association; Governor O'Neill; Dick Bartlem, Pres-Elect, Connecticut Recreation and Park Association; and Bob Dlugolenski, Coordinator, State Park and Recreation Advisory Service.



Leslie Bieber

In spite of America's growing physical fitness boom, millions of people continue to lead sedentary lives. Recreation may be limited to televised sports, or, in the younger generation, video games. As much fun as a good round of "Space Invaders" can be, it doesn't have the same benefits as a brisk walk around the block.

Recognizing the effect that an active lifestyle can have on mental and physical fitness, the Department of Environmental Protection has entered into a five-year program called "Life. Be In It." The program is a cooperative effort involving the National Recreation and Parks Association, local and state recreation and park agencies, and state recreation and park

societies across the country. The DEP's Parks and Recreation Advisory Service and the State Parks and Recreation Bureau are coordinating activities in Connecticut.

The "Life. Be In It" campaign has two main objectives: 1) to create an awareness of the importance of being active and get individuals to place activity higher among their priorities for day-to-day life; and 2) to broaden the concept of activity away from a narrow mind-set that views activity only in terms of strenuous exercise and toward one that includes a wide variety of leisure experiences that are inexpensive, can be done spontaneously, and require little, if any, special equipment or facilities.

Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Stanley Pac has enthusiastically supported and adopted the "Life. Be In It" campaign for Connecticut. Plans are under way to promote awareness of the program through the use of public service announcements in the media and the placing of signs bearing the program's logo at state recreational facilities.

State recreation officials feel that programmed activities are most easily developed on a municipal level. They are promoting the use of State facilities for planned recreation -- town groups could arrange trips to a beach or park, for instance. As momentum for the "Life. Be In It" program grows, emphasis will be on reaching the large number of people who never use the State's fine recreational areas.

"Life. Be In It" encompasses a philosophy toward life, which says, "Don't stagnate, don't merely exist. Put more into life and get more out of it!" It supports the family unit, embracing a broad spectrum of recreational activities whether they be arts, crafts, sport, or play. More than just a fitness campaign, more than a recreation campaign, "Life. Be In It" is aimed at modifying the lifestyles of millions of people through activity, ultimately making them happier and healthier.



By Leslie Bieber,
Citizens' Participation Coordinator

For Your Information

Environmental Mediation Center opens

A tremendous amount of time and money has been spent over the past few years as environmental disputes end up in court. The Connecticut Environmental Mediation Center, which was established in the spring of 1982, is available as an alternative to the court system in resolving these conflicts.

The Center is an extension of the New England Environmental Mediation Center in Boston, which has been in operation for about two years. In a process similar to labor mediation, the various parties involved in disputes negotiate their cases until either an agreement or an impasse is reached. The Boston office recently brought together a private utility company and several local groups who were wrangling over a proposed hydro-power project in Middlebury, Vermont. In less than 90 days a written agreement was obtained.

The Connecticut Center is headed by Dorothy McClusky, who represented North Branford and Wallingford in the General Assembly for the past eight years. (She is not running for re-election this fall.) McClusky, who has her Master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, is the former chairman of the North Branford Conservation Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission and a former director of the Connecticut

Association of Conservation Commissions.

McClusky explained that the mediation process encourages and assists parties in the use of negotiation, rather than confrontation, to resolve a wide variety of environmental disputes. Participation is voluntary and there is generally no charge for services rendered. The mediator has no authority to impose a settlement, but instead helps the parties to design a solution themselves and to reach a written agreement which then becomes legally binding.

Mediation is most appropriate when there is a serious conflict between parties with different objectives; when the issues are well defined; and when the parties are each willing to make some concessions. Examples of the kinds of cases the Connecticut Center can help include: housing and other development projects; wetlands protection; harbor dredging; hydroelectric power plant siting; highway construction; waste management.

The Connecticut Environmental Mediation Center has been funded for a two-year period through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Ford Foundation, and other sources. If you know of disputes that might benefit from mediation, or if you would like to know more about the services offered by the Center, contact: Dorothy McClusky, Director, Connecticut Environmental Mediation Center, 275 Windsor Street, Hartford, CT 06102. ■

Science Fair From page 2

tical Wind-powered Device for Electrical Generation To Be Used in Metropolitan and Urban Areas." Top award of a \$1000 scholarship was garnered by William Telford, Trumbull High School, for his project, "Eradication of Intraintestinal Symbiotes: A New Concept In Insect Control."

The Connecticut Science Fair was selected by CAS as the forum for the awards because of its long-term activity, its involvement of all the State's secondary schools--public and private--and its widespread reputation for excellence in bringing students, their projects and advisors, judges, and awards donors together.

In his remarks at the awards ceremony, CAS President Roland C. Clement said, "The Audubon Societies originally organized to focus citizen demand for the protection of threatened bird species. Programs have been broadened and updated over the intervening years in accord with a new awareness of the environment. During the 1950s, for instance, it had become obvious that land use practices such as draining wetlands had become more serious threats to the survival of many species than the use of guns, as was the case a century ago.

"Today's challenge revolves around three questions: How can human demands be fitted into the environment without destroying productive capacities? Can we solve growing conflicts in the use of resources in a democratic fashion? Can we step up the contributions of science to a clearer understanding of our environmental options.

"This is why," Clement said, "Connecticut Audubon Society, with help and contributions from industry groups and concerned individuals, is making an annual commitment to the support of environmentally-oriented projects and studies through the Connecticut Science Fair." ■

Squirrels

From page 15

requires the hunter to exercise great patience. This style of hunting can be a welcome change from the noisy, fast-paced style of hunting associated with grouse and raccoon.

Squirrels are ordinarily considered to be beneficial animals for many reasons. Hunting them provides recreation to many people who enjoy getting into the woods for a day and then fixing up a tasty dish from their catch. Many people simply enjoy watching squirrels as they play and feed. Foresters believe the lost seeds buried by squirrels play a role in the reseedling of woodlands.

Unfortunately squirrels can also be very annoying. Problems occur where man and squirrel live too close together. The squirrel may invade attics, destroy plants and fruits, or partially defoliate or strip the bark from shade trees and ornamental shrubs.

Where squirrels have nested in an attic or in another part of a building, they can be driven out by means of a repellent. One common repellent, naphthalene flakes or moth balls, is useful when placed in the nesting area. After the squirrels have left, all entrances should be closed by repairing the structure and protecting it with materials such as tin, sheet metal, or a repellent paint. Repellents can also be used to protect plants and ornamentals. Squirrels will not normally feed on a plant that is covered with a repellent such as a mixture of epsom salts and water.

If squirrels are using nearby trees to gain access to buildings, it is suggested that a two-foot wide band of sheet metal be put around the tree trunk at least six feet from the ground. An alternative is to cut back the limbs that the squirrels are using for access.

Trapping and shooting are common means for getting rid of problem squirrels; however,

local regulations may prohibit the use of these methods. Live traps can commonly be rented locally, and when baited with peanut butter or apples they can provide effective and humane control.

For persons who would like to have squirrels in their woodlot, two common elements of good squirrel habitat must be considered. Food is one important factor when trying to attract squirrels. A variety of food can be provided by a mixed stand of red, black, and white oaks with a few cherry, ash, beech, and hickories mixed in as alternate food sources.

A second important factor for good squirrel habitat is the presence of denning sites. Dens are often found in old dead trees, which should not be removed. In an area where few natural dens exist leaf nests are commonly used, but they provide little protection from predators. The addition of nesting boxes can provide protected homes. A typical squirrel nesting box is about two feet deep by eight inches square, with an entry hole three inches in diameter. Place the box about twenty-five feet high in a large tree. Place the hole near the side of the tree for easy entrance. Wire or screening can be used to facilitate access.

**Saturday
July 31 is
State
Park
Day**

Farmington River flow

The Farmington River Watershed Association prepares weekly river condition reports for recreational users of the Farmington River. The reports are prepared each Friday morning for the following week. They're printed in several Hartford area newspapers and are also available from FRWA at 678-1241, 24 hours a day.

Audubon Activities

May 23 through October 31 the Saugatuck Valley Audubon Society (Westport) will sponsor day boat trips aboard the "Conservator" to the Norwalk Islands to observe birds and study botany or marine ecology. Contact Mrs. Russell Quick at 866-7830 for details.

Through June and July volunteers interested in working with the roseate and common tern colony on Falkners Island are invited to contact Dr. Jeffery A. Spendelow, 29 Short Beach Road, East Haven, CT 06512; 468-0514.

June 26 through August 28 Audubon Council of Connecticut natural history programs will be presented in Connecticut State Parks. Watch for details in local newspapers.

June 29 through August 3 the Sharon Audubon Center will hold summer programs for second grade through high school students. Contact the Sharon Audubon Center, Route 4, Sharon, CT 06069, or call 364-5826 for a copy of the registration form.

July 24 and July 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. the Housatonic Audubon Society will hold an Audubon Festival at the Sharon Audubon Center (Rt. 4, Sharon).

Indian Institute

Among the courses and programs offered this summer by the American Indian Archaeological In-

stitute (Rt. 199, Washington, CT 06793; 868-0518) will be:

July 19-22, 9:30-11 a.m., Indian Survival Techniques, an adult workshop led by AIAI president, Edmund K. Swigart. He will introduce participants to the American Indian's use of plants, animals, and the natural landscape; \$30 for members; \$40, non-members.

July 24 & 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday; Rib Basketry Workshop led by Elizabeth Jensen. Make a curved basket with handle from natural and dyed reeds. Limited enrollment. \$20 members; \$30 non-members, plus materials fee.

August 14 & 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday; Mini Baskets Workshop by Elizabeth Jensen. Make three or more miniature baskets--experience necessary. \$20 members; \$30 non-members.

Fieldwork opportunities in late July and early August; members \$50; non-members \$80; students under 19, \$40. Contact Dr. Roger Moeller, 868-0518.

Volunteer field work in Canaan, mid-June-July, contact Dr. Russ Handsman, 868-0518. ■

Nature at Hammonasset

The Meigs Point Nature Center, at Hammonasset Beach State Park, offers nature activities, courses, movies, sports, and special events as well as a special five-day coastal ecology workshop for adults to be held in August.

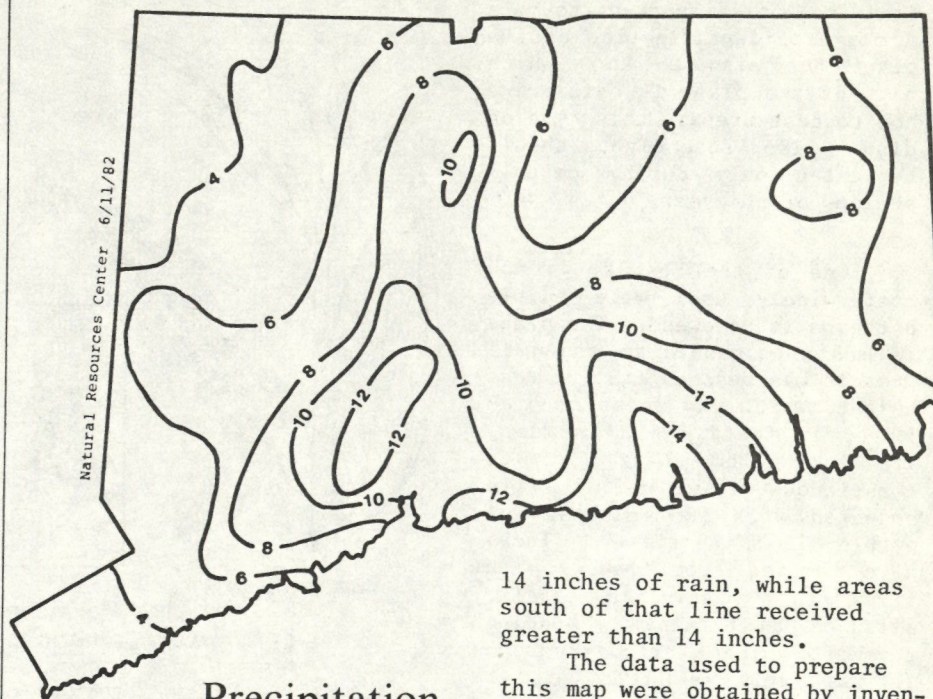
Sign up your group for a nature walk with a center naturalist (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) by calling the park at 245-2785.

A daily nature walk for all ages leaves the center each day at 10 a.m.

Seven-day long Junior Naturalist programs are offered each week, from 10 a.m. to noon each day, for children eight to 12 years old.

How wet did it get?

By Daniel Meade and Bruce Hunter,
DEP Natural Resources Center



Precipitation
June 4-7, 1982
IN INCHES

The map shown above illustrates the distribution of rainfall that occurred during the storm of June 4-7. Distribution is illustrated by the use of isohyets, lines connecting points on the map having a specified quantity of rainfall. For example, the 14 inch isohyet located near the mouth of the Connecticut River indicates that areas along that line received approximately

14 inches of rain, while areas south of that line received greater than 14 inches.

The data used to prepare this map were obtained by inventoring 68 stations throughout Connecticut. Rainfall amounts ranged from 2.68 inches at the Falls Village station, in the northwest corner of the State, to 14.25 inches at Essex, near the mouth of the Connecticut River.

The greatest amounts of precipitation occurred in the valley regions of the State with the lower Connecticut River basin reporting amounts greater than 14 inches and the Quinnipiac River basin reporting amounts of 12 to 14 inches.

Although the northwest and southwest portions of the State reported rainfall amounts of less than four inches, this storm caused more rainfall statewide than any single storm on record. ■

August 16-20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, Coastal Ecology Workshop for adults will examine plant and animal life around Hammonasset Beach. ■

Lisa

August 28-September 6, the Fifth Annual Long Island Sound America 10-day summer festival will take place along the Sound in Connecticut and New York. LISA/82 will

include hot air balloon flights across the Sound, ultra-light aircraft fly-ins, model aviation aerobatic championships, road races, boating events, kite flying, sand sculpturing contests, fishing derbys, concerts, lobster and clam bakes, and more. Groups or individuals interested in participating can contact the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce, 180 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604, LISA/82 headquarters. ■

Trailside Botanizing

by G. Winston Carter

Interest in preparing and eating wild foods is on the increase. For those interested, it is not only important to make a correct identification of the plant but also to know which part of the plant is edible and how to best prepare this type of dish. Also, some plants should be eaten only during certain seasons of the year.

One of the best known and most widely used wild edible potherbs is pokeweed. The plant is most noticeable in the fall when it has reached its greatest height, which may be as much as 10 to 12 feet. By this time, its stem has changed to a conspicuous violet hue and it is bedecked with long clusters of purple-black berries. These have matured from flowers with five white petal-like sepals, arranged in terminal, nodding racemes, which started blossoming as early as July.



Pokeweed should be eaten only during the early spring when the young shoots, which taste much like asparagus, are only about six inches in height. They should be put through at least two changes of water and the water discarded.

When the stem gets larger it develops a reddish tint which is indicative of the presence of phytolaccine, a poison which acts as a slow emetic. This same poison is present in the seeds of the berries and in the roots.

The popularity of pokeweed as a food goes back to early days, and Indian tribes and early settlers both praised this wild food. The juice from the berries produces a primitive and rather permanent dye. This was a source of ink for letter writing with a quill pen, a reason for one of the plant's other common names, inkberry.

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